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STRATFORD

The Last Lecture—Ground Hog—Letter from the South—A Surprise Party—What the Snow Brings.

The next and last lecture of the course which has been given at the library this winter will be on the evening of Lincoln's birthday, when Prof. Phelps of Yale will talk about Daniel Webster, Wendell Phillips and Lincoln.

At least four of our well known citizens attended the McKinley dinner at the Stratfield, including Stiles Judson, F. V. Robinson, Sheriff Charles Stagg and Frank L. Davis.

It is expected that the whole matter of the fire department will be settled at the town meeting to-morrow night.

Mrs. Julia Clinton has so far recovered from her recent illness that she was able to go to Hartford a day or two ago.

All the members of the Stove club should watch and see if the ground hog comes out to-morrow, and if he does whether he can see his shadow. If the day is fair then we are to have six more weeks of dreadful winter weather.

There will be an important meeting of the Rebekahs, in the form of a sewing circle, to-morrow afternoon at the residence on Long Brook avenue of Mrs. Leroy Beach.

If the various committees of the fire department, which have been holding high joint conferences with the selectmen, had only been empowered to take action, as well as to talk, something might have been accomplished. A talking committee is more ornamental than useful.

Mr. Howard Curtis and Miss Mara Falken, came down from New Haven to pass Sunday in town.

The Okeuchucks are to have another regular jollification this evening with music, singing, the usual "corn and venison," and a tall talk by Edward P. Nobbs, the probate judge of Bridgeport.

And now the Rufus Buddington family will leave one of the Stratford avenue Porter houses and move into one of the Lundy's Lane Peck cottages.

Several local ladies will attend the after Easter Colonna what at the Stratfield. By that date it will be spring time.

Last night at the Methodist church Rev. Mr. Eggleston preached to the Masses on "The Temple of Christian Manhood."

A few days since the ladies of the Home Missionary society held a meeting at the home of Mrs. Dea. Haven, and listened to a very interesting lecture written by the recipients in the South of the barrels of clothing which had been sent to them. Some of these letters were quite pathetic. The people of certain sections of the South are very poor, and have little chance to better their condition, as there is no remunerative work and they are far removed from the centers of population and civilization.

Mr. P. J. Blackett arrived at his home in town on Thursday night from Philadelphia, of the U. S. S. Lancaster, having served for five years in the navy. He received an honorable discharge.

A surprise party in honor of her birthday was given to Miss Bertha Blackett, Jackson avenue, a few evenings since. There was music by the "Stratford Orchestra" composed of Misses Christine Shaw, Rhoda King, and Irving Shaw and Arnold Ostlund. Solos were rendered by Charles Ryer and piano selections by Katherine Blackett and Rhoda King. A Jack Horner "Pie" was one of the amusing features of the evening which contained a prize for each guest and an humorous bit of verse. Those who enjoyed the evening were Adele Dea, Elva Ryer, Rhoda King, Dora Rogers, Mabel Lathrop, Sadie Blaney, Carrie Leister, Edna Chisholm, Mabel and Ethel Johnson, Gunda Benton, Katherine Blackett, Amelia Blackett, Bessie Yates, Alice Breyer, Loretta Blackett, and Katherine and May Tyer of Bridgeport. The young gentlemen present were Louis Johnson, Misses Knowlton, Kenneth Knowlton, Herbert Doolittle, Charles Breyer, Arnold Osterlund, Irving Shaw, Theodore Blackett, Richard King, William Blaney, Bert Jewell, George A. Yates, Herbert Leister, Wilbur Yates, and Mr. Harry Ta-Num of Bridgeport.

A number of townships have been attending the services at the Summerfield church.

Now that the assessors have completed their work the board of relief steps in to see what can be abated of the taxes.

Mrs. Shelton has gone to Derby for a few days.

Miss Edna Sammis is visiting in New York.

Miss Wilkes thinks it is no joke to be followed by a ferocious dog. She escaped unharm.

Straw rides and jolly sleighing parties will be all the rage now the "beautiful snow" has come.

E. P. Bullard, president of the Building Machine Tool Company of Bridgeport, has taken the Beach residence on Elm street and will make Stratford his residence in the future.

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WESTPORT

Telephones and Schools—Infant in a Well—Lectures to Teachers—Died for Love—A Big Auto Trip.

Owing to opposition from unexpected sources the Board of Education has rescinded its vote to put telephones in three of the school houses of the town. It never was the intention to have these instruments used by the scholars for all sorts of important messages. It was thought to be a good and necessary thing to have a large school connected with central, so that in case of need parents, or the school board, or a doctor or even the fire department could be communicated with.

But it seems the time is not ripe for the people of this town to take this practical and forward step. One of the opponents was the Women's Club. That institution thought it was better to have the children weaned from home, and its influences at least for a few hours, and not tied to their mother's apron strings. They did not want an easy way of communication up for the children to converse with parents. And then the local paper thought it an unnecessary expense, and so the vote was rescinded. A few years from now, when every school house in the state has its telephone just as much as it has a blackboard, or a flag, or a teacher, those who have opposed this movement will smile at their timidity. Dr. Stearns rather favored the innovation, but the majority prevailed.

Because the remains of an infant were found in the bottom of a well a few days ago, where it is supposed to have been for a month, there was no good reason why the town should be "arrested." True, a revolting crime was committed, and it is not to be supposed that the parents of the unfortunate infant were respectable Christians. The whole thing is involved in mystery, and is likely so to remain. Similar crimes against nature are by no means infrequent, and more may be expected so long as there remains in any community a large class of poverty stricken, uneducated persons, degraded people. It might be a good thing for the townspeople to put screens over the tops of their wells.

The teachers of this town, of all grades, some 21 in number, assembled in the Board Room on Friday afternoon to listen to a talk by Supt. Wheatley upon "Commonsense Didactics" or the art of teaching.

A few local delegates attended the meeting of Pomona grange at Danbury a day or two ago. There are 17 granges in the county and 125 patrons.

Mr. Michael Royce has bought the old Walter Meeker property, of about 50 acres. It is regarded as one of the best farms in town.

Rev. Charles Cornwall preached in Trinity church yesterday.

Mr. Percy Sturges is home again to his duties after a vacation.

Next Wednesday the whist party for the benefit of the high school grounds will be given by Mr. and Mrs. Fred Salmon.

About 30 members of the Current Events club attended the last meeting at the residence of Mrs. Everett Tarrington.

Mr. Henry Downes has been arrested for assaulting Joshua Meyers, and old man who lives at the town farm.

The late John Bailey is thought to have left an estate valued at about \$5,000.

There will be a farmer's convention in the chapel of the Greens Farms church on Lincoln's birthday.

Mr. Dick Horan is now night man at the Saugatuck railroad station.

The Beneficent society of the Congregational church has elected the following ladies for its officers: Mesdames Charles F. Taylor, Isaac B. Wakeman, R. L. Woodward, M. H. Coley, S. B. Foster, E. B. Hubbell, and the Misses Mary E. Coley, Mina Wakeman, Katherine Taylor, Katherine Wilcox and Millicent Foster.

Mr. Oliver H. Jennings is home from his trip to Virginia.

A book called "The Nearer and the Farther East" will be studied the coming year by the literary society of the Congregational church.

Miss Loraine La Estes has found employment in Ohio.

Mr. Louis Pennell has given up his place at the Brantley factory.

It is thought the work on the inside of the new town house will be completed the latter part of this month.

Mrs. Mary Crossman is visiting her daughter in New Rochelle.

Reports to the effect that Mr. Joseph G. has been sick, are without foundation.

A race track is being prepared at the farm of Mr. E. T. Bedford, to be ready for the spring events.

Rev. George E. Bishop has been visiting in New York.

A good number of the teachers of this town are attending the lectures in South Norwalk, given by Prof. Charles H. Judd of Yale, on "Applied Psychology." Among those who go down on the cars are Prof. George H. Boyden, principal of the Staples High school, Miss Ruth Hall, Miss Jessie Bourne, Miss Rachel Schenck, Miss Mary Ju. Miss Emma Scudder, Miss Mary Cassidy, Miss Linda McMahon, Miss Sarah Parsells, Miss Rose Coyle, Miss Eva Bowen and Miss Ida Lovejoy.

All the teachers appear to be more than usually interested in the lectures.

Mr. E. T. Bedford and family have reached California.

Mr. Augustus Lees and Mr. John E. Goddard have joined the Bridgeport Automobile Club, also Mr. W. D. Dickson.

Mr. Banks of this town wants a bill passed at Hartford giving authority for volunteer fire companies to control the wearing of their uniforms.

The supposition is that the late John Bailey, a farmer of this town, committed suicide because he was jilted by a New York woman who would not marry him unless he made over to her all of his property. This consisted of a small house, a few acres of land and some cows. Rather than do this he took his own life. The man was 65 years of age and in the employ of A. T. Burr.

On the 16th inst., Aspetuck Lodge, Knights of Pythias, will celebrate its 15th anniversary. Those who are to arrange for the celebration are Messrs. Charles Harris, B. W. Gorham, G. A. Darrow, Geo. E. Bishop and W. F. H. Preston.

Hiram McKinley has found work with the Bridgeport Locomobile company. There were 98 deaths in town last year, 64 births and 20 marriages. According to all accounts the Saugatuck bridge continues to be in a bad way. The bridge sways and jolts and swings, and acts as if it was "going to fall over." And bolts, and bars and planks are constantly dropping from it into the water.

It is said that Mr. and Mrs. Morris of this town expected to start on a 10,000 mile automobile trip. This is equal to four times around the world, provided the auto could run on the equator all the time. Unfortunately that is but a single track, and cannot be used at present.

Miss Katherine A. Wales has sailed for the Holy Land.

Mr. William Estle has gone into business at Highland Falls, New York.

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Signature